

SALISBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

July 2024 Edition



A Tradition of
Excellence in Public
Safety Since
1872

Rob Frampton
Fire Chief

W. Darrin Scott
Deputy Fire Chief

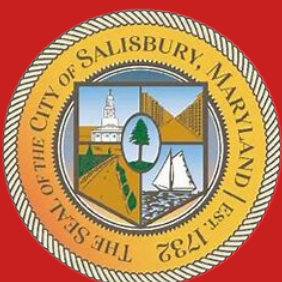
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From the Fire Chief



Thank you for taking the time to read the first bi-annual newsletter for the Salisbury Fire Department (SFD) in several years. Most importantly, we want you to know that YOUR Salisbury Fire Department is always ready for whatever emergency or non-emergency call for service that may be needed. The SFD provides first-class service to the citizens and visitors of the entire Salisbury Fire District. This district includes the municipal city limits of Salisbury and the unincorporated portions of Salisbury in Wicomico County. The department responded to over 16,300 calls for Fire & EMS protection in 2023 and is well on its way to eclipsing that number in 2024. Providing this superior service with a smile, does not come easy and is not cheap. Our providers train everyday while on duty and hundreds of additional hours while they're off-duty. They pride themselves on being highly proficient in their skills and proactive in their treatment of patients and their response to fires. This leads to some of the highest cardiac arrest survival rates in the country and superior fire control and extinguishment. Our stations, apparatus, and gear are of the highest quality and meets or exceeds industry standards. We are fortunate and extremely grateful to have the resources that we do, that enable to do the best job possible.

Additionally, our department has been pro-active and has begun investigative efforts for fires that occur in our fire district. Through these investigative efforts, we are able to select and identify our fire prevention strategies and public safety messages. Furthermore, we are able to ensure that proper code enforcement is being done and that any necessary legislation is kept current or enacted. The Fire Marshal's Office also completes building plan reviews, sprinkler inspections, and commercial inspections. All of these efforts help to ensure a fire-safe community for our citizens, visitors, and first responders. Our Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program, often referred to as SWIFT or MDCN, creates the second part of our Community Risk Reduction Branch. Our MIH efforts are far-reaching and seek to provide a fully comprehensible path to healthcare for our vulnerable populations. Their efforts are almost fully grant-funded and the work they do every day in the community is truly amazing and inspiring. This team approach includes our partners at Tidal Health and the Wicomico County Health Department, and without them our work would not be possible.

The SFD is pushing forward with an effort to be fully transparent and data driven. Our motto is "Data Driven & Community Focused". We have expanded our relationship with the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) personnel and are testing a series of dashboards that will become available to the public when they are fully complete. These dashboards will eventually provide real-time data and performance metrics for responders and the public at the click of a button. This new 'data driven' culture is also helping to determine the proper placement of units and future station locations within the fire district. The ultimate goal is to be able to virtually predict where an emergency will occur, before it ever does. If we can accomplish this feat, the level of service delivered will be far superior to any other agency around us.

Finally, regardless of the time of day or your location in our fire district, rest assured the men and women of the SFD are ready to respond. Your lives and property are in the best hands possible, should you have a need to dial 911. As the Fire Chief for the SFD, it is my honor to lead this great organization full of history and tradition; and it is with great pride that I am able to put on the uniform and the badge every day and come to work with these fine people. If there is anything that you should ever need, any question you need answered or any service you need provided, please do not hesitate to call 410-548-3120 (non-emergency) or 911 (emergency).

Respectfully,
Rob Frampton, Fire Chief

Emergency Medical Services

The third week of May is recognized as Emergency Medical Services Week nationally, with this year's theme being "Honoring our past, Forging our future," so let's briefly examine how your EMS clinicians have served Salisbury. Salisbury's EMS clinicians previously were a separate division that functioned along with the Fire Department. This changed in 2002 when the Fire and EMS divisions merged under the Fire Department's umbrella. This enabled clinicians to function in a more diverse approach to pre-hospital care, staff units with combinations of clinicians to meet the call volume needs, and give personnel chances at further career growth. Since then, the SFD has added transport units as the call volume has increased over the years to the current model of four units daily (3 advanced life support units and 1 basic life support unit) and a supervisor in a chase unit, as staffing allows. These units and suppression unit support respond to an average of 30+ calls daily in and around the City of Salisbury.

EMS has historically meant pre-hospital care and transport of patients to the hospital. This has changed a bit over the years, especially in Salisbury, with the advent of Mobile Integrated Healthcare, or MIH. Our department utilizes SWIFT (Salisbury Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team) to respond to the citizens' non-emergency needs. This team, consisting of a paramedic from the SFD and nurse practitioner from Tidal Health allows the provision of injury prevention, treatment without transport, chronic disease and syndrome surveillance, assistance with durable medical equipment, and many other resources to the citizens in and around Salisbury.

During EMS week, we recognized some of the clinicians nominated by their co-workers as embodying what a pre-hospital clinician should be. Each shift nominated a Paramedic and an EMT from their workgroup for "Clinician of the Year 2023." A-shift nominated Sarah Trice FF/PM and Seth Tayman FF/EMT; B-shift nominated Ginger Phippin FF/PM and Brittany Bennett FF/EMT; C-shift nominated Joshua Joyner FF/PM and Natalie Tull FF/EMT; D-shift nominated Corey Dean FF/PM and KJ Laird FF/EMT. After deliberation between the EMS Sergeants and the EMS Assistant Chief, Paramedic Joshua Joyner and EMT Natalie Tull were named your Department's 2023 ALS and BLS Clinicians of the Year!

We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer, for more information on Salisbury EMS check us out online, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, contact our Administrative Office at 410-548-3120, or email Chris Truitt Assistant Chief of EMS at ctruitt@salisbury.md



Fire Marshal's Office

Office of the City Fire Marshal At-A-Glance

January 2024 through the end of May 2024

Staff assigned to the City Fire Marshal's Office conducted a total of 578 inspections. Of these, 426 were fire safety inspections, re-inspections, or complaint investigations and 152 were inspections associated with a permit.

The Fire Marshal issued 123 permits. 87 permits were issued for the installation or modification of fire protection systems and 36 were operational permits.

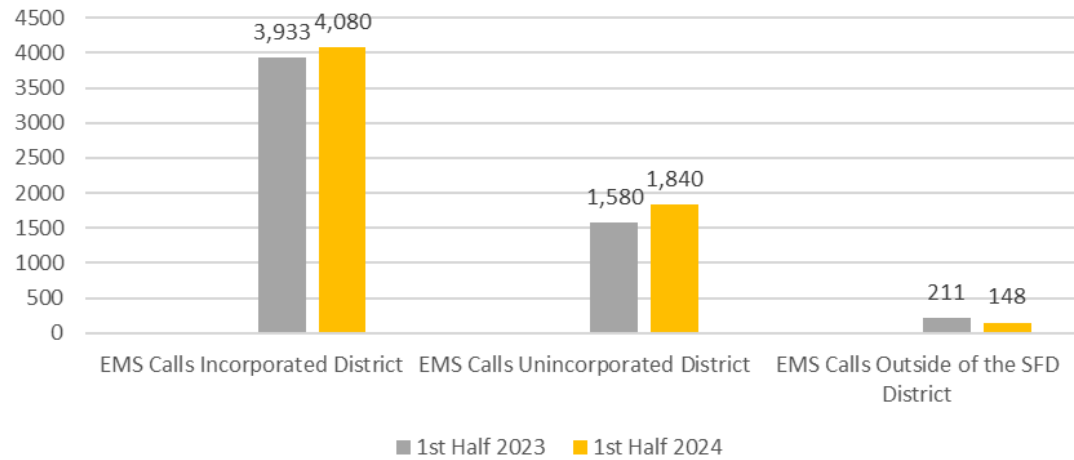
Staff reviewed numerous site and architectural plans for new construction, building tenant fit-outs, and for building alterations. 84 architectural plan reviews were completed for projects which a building permit has been issued.

Staff responded to 43 different fire incidents and conducted 13 formal fire investigations.

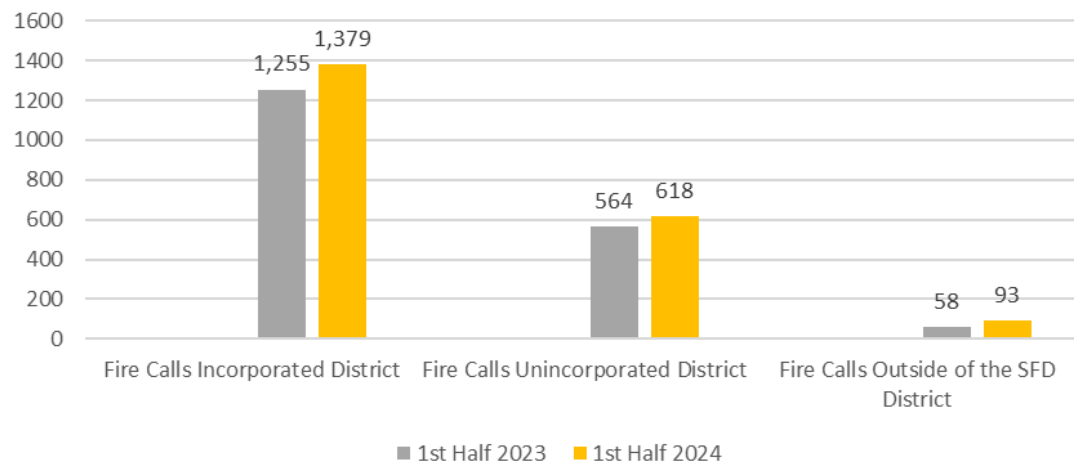


SFD Statistics

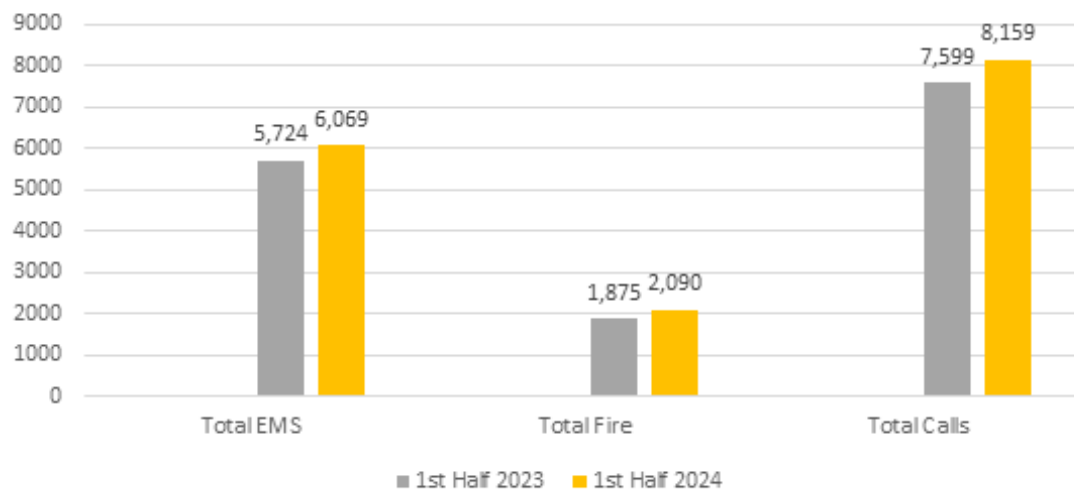
1st Half 2023 vs 1st Half 2024 EMS Calls



1st Half 2023 vs 1st Half 2024 Fire Calls



1st Half 2023 vs 1st Half 2024 Total Calls

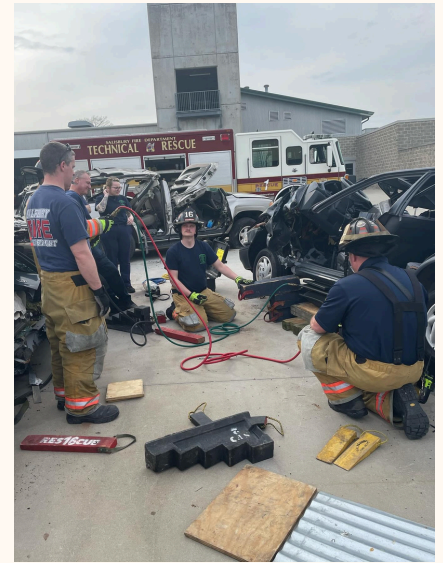


SFD Statistics Continued

	<u>1st Half 2023</u>	<u>1st Half 2024</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Total EMS	5,724	6,069	7.40%
Total Fire	1,875	2,090	11.50%
Total Calls	7,599	8,159	6.00%
	<u>1st Half 2023</u>	<u>1st Half 2024</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
EMS Calls Incorporated District	3,933	4,080	3.76%
EMS Calls Unincorporated District	1,580	1,840	16.50%
EMS Calls Outside of the SFD District	211	148	-29.90%
	<u>1st Half 2023</u>	<u>1st Half 2024</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Fire Calls Incorporated District	1,255	1,379	9.80%
Fire Calls Unincorporated District	564	618	9.60%
Fire Calls Outside of the SFD District	58	93	60.30%

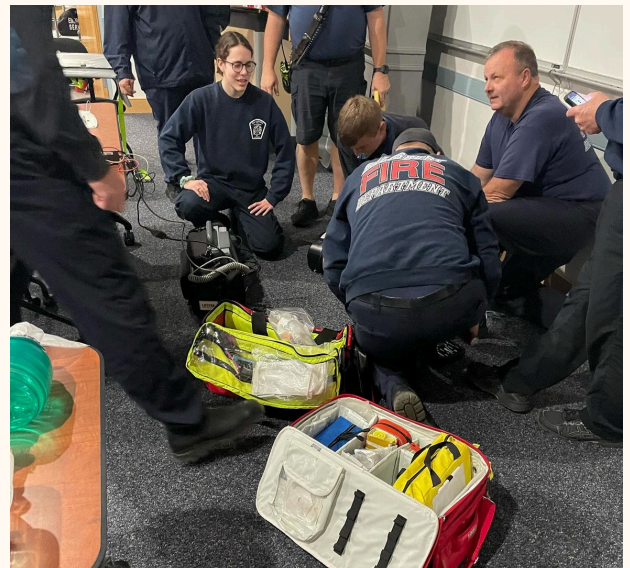
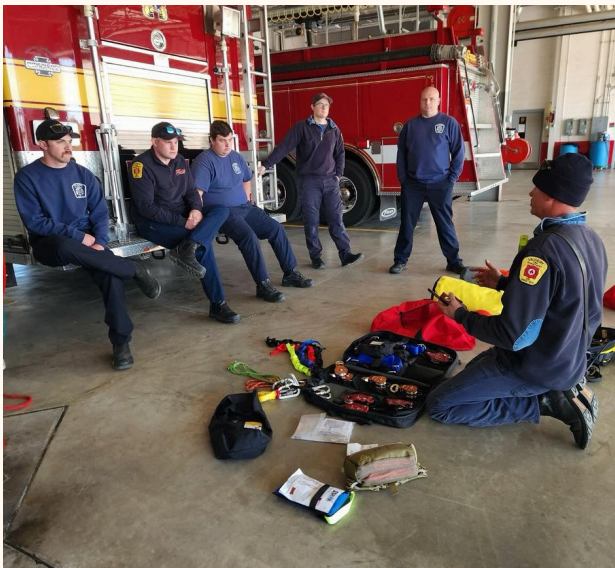
- 1st Half of 2024 Property Value Saved from Fire – \$36,210,751
- 1st Half of 2024 Property Lost from Fire – \$2,034,360
- FM's Office Approved Building Plan Reviews – 96
- FM's Office Building Inspections – 444
- FM's Office Generated Approx. \$291k in Revenue in 1st Half of 2024
- On Track to Be Above Budget by Approx. \$150k
- Fires Investigated by the FM's Office in 1st Half of 2024 – 15

Training



The Salisbury Fire Department Training Divisions goal is to ensure that your Salisbury Fire Department members are ready at a moments notice. In the first quarter of 2024, members spent 3,366 hours training. Some of the training highlights were hazardous materials, CPR, search and rescue; and applying water. All of these hours were completed while still responding to calls for service.

The Salisbury Training Division would also like to recognize the hard work that our paramedic students have done over the past year. Starting in 2024, we had 9 students in the program with 5 graduating in May and 4 to start their second and final year in June. Congratulations to Seth Tayman, Timothy Jones, Natalie Tull, Colby Pfleger, and Sean Collins on your successful completion of the Paramedic program at Wor-Wic Community College.



Shift Highlights A-Shift

Promotions/Retirements:



A-shift has had some recent changes in the last six months. Recently, Sgt. Joshua Engle retired after giving 14 years to the Salisbury Fire Department. Sgt. Engle was assigned to Station 16 and played a pivotal role on A-shift training newer members of the department. Captain Aaron Colegrove recently joined A-shift in the last three months and is assigned to Station 16. Sergeant Brady Scott recently joined us from C-shift, a little over a month ago. Captain Colegrove and Sergeant Scott have spent the last eight-plus years assigned to the Truck and are now making the transition to the Engine company.

New Hires:

Recently A-shift has welcomed two new members to our shift. FF/EMT Robert Pinski and FF/EMT Trinity Donovan joined our department in January of 2024. Both members are currently spending many hours working to complete their probationary packets. These packets involve multiple test and training scenarios to allow them to operate without the need of a Field Training Officer.

Exemplary Service:

Congrats to Lt. Zach Bridges on receiving the Mayor's Award for Exemplary Service. In 2023, Zach re-started the SFD's Junior Fire Academy. Zach was able to make changes and improvements to an already amazing program. In 2024, the JFA will be expanding to two different age groups to allow more access and various activities. Congrats LT!!

Message from Assistant Chief Logan Helmuth



Over the last several years the SFD has been monitoring a growing national problem with lithium-ion battery fires. Earlier this year, the SFD developed a standard operating procedure outlining how we mitigate incidents involving lithium-ion batteries. This policy addresses the response to electric vehicles, battery storage systems, and other lithium-ion batteries events.

Currently, the SFD is working to develop a better plan for the disposal of batteries that have been damaged or involved in a fire. We are also working to increase public education on the purchase of UL rated batteries, charging, and their use. This education will specifically apply to multi-family dwellings and commercial occupancies that are attached to residential buildings.

The SFD has also identified a risk to our Firefighters while operating near lithium-ion batteries in a building fire. Any crew that identifies a device with a lithium-ion battery should use extreme caution and notify the Incident Commander of the situation.

The SFD recognizes that this is an evolving issue and plans to stay on the forefront of the mitigation of lithium-ion related incidents.

Shift Highlights B-Shift

Promotions:

Over the past couple of months we have had several changes to staffing on B-Shift. Lieutenant Aaron Colegrove was promoted to the rank of Captain and transferred to A-Shift. Lieutenant Mike Carbaugh was promoted to the rank of Captain and transferred to C-Shift. Congratulations on your promotions and best of luck on your new assignments!



After the Fire Program:

The Salisbury Fire Department's After the Fire Program is a community outreach program for crews to go door to door to check/replace smoke detectors, replace batteries, and complete fire safety inspections as needed. B-Shift participated in one on April 29th, 2024 in the Hemlock Street area. Several homes were visited and multiple smoke detectors were installed. This is just one more way the SFD is ensuring your safety.



Shift Highlights C-Shift

Promotions:

Over the past several months, C-shift has gone through some dynamic changes with recently promoted personnel. Captain David Cox, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief, Lieutenant Mike Carbaugh was promoted to the rank of Captain, Sergeant Kyle Gray was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, Ben Koons of 2C was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and FF/EMT Brady Scott was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to 16A. These members have been part of C-Shift for many years and are commended for their outstanding performance. Congratulations on your promotions!

New Driver Operators:

The role of the driver/operator of the fire engines or ladder trucks, is without a doubt the most important job in the fire service. Driver's need to know the fastest routes to get to calls, park in the appropriate places to allow the ladders on the equipment to reach its desired location, ensure there is adequate water for the fire hoses and ultimately has the responsibility to ensure everyone gets to the call safely. Our department requires driver/operators to obtain the correct class of license needed to drive the apparatus. At that point, the person must complete and pass a Pump Operator class through the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute. Ending the process with many hours of non-emergency driving, street familiarization, pumping evolutions and a thorough skills evaluation by their company officer and the training division. Over the past 6-months, several members of C-shift have completed this training, earning themselves a yellow insert on their helmets, which signifies they are a driver/operator and allows them to drive emergency equipment to calls. Congratulations to Sergeant Ben Koons, FF/EMT Jon Hitch, FF/EMT Jake Wood and FF/PM Colby Bunting on obtaining your Driver/Operator status.



Community Service Events:

The department annually encourages local schools to participate in a reading program to encourage second graders to read for a minimum of twenty minutes a day. The "Blazing A Trail" program has been used for several years now with all schools located in the Salisbury fire district participating in the event. The program begins in January and ends in March. Students are sent home with record sheets for their reading times to be documented by their family members. In addition, the fire department shifts each have a school they are responsible for. Several times, members from the shift will attend the schools at a pre-arranged time and read books provided from the school to the students. At the end of the program, the top readers of each school are presented with certificates, backpacks, gift cards and the top reader earns the "Fire Chief for the Day" status. That award allows the winning child to come to the station and meet all of the staff, tour the station and learn of the daily duties and actually sign some "policies" for the department. Then the child, rides the fire engine to school and distributes fire helmets to their classmates. This year C-shift handled Wicomico Day School and Salisbury Christian School, with their top reader logging over 3600 minutes of reading!

C-shift hosted a training event for the Wicomico County Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT). Their training was held at Fire Station 16 and consisted of debris removal, cribbing of unstable objects and removal of someone trapped under a simulated wall collapse of a building. Our members demonstrated how to use simple objects available to everyone to lift and stabilize the wall, and then safely remove a trapped person. The CERT members can be utilized for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tornados.



Shift Highlights D-Shift

Promotions:

The first half of 2024 has seen two promotions for D-shift. The first was Andrew Quillen to Sergeant in March and David Cox was promoted to the Assistant Chief of D-shift in May. We congratulate both of these gentlemen and wish them well in their new positions.

Retirement:

On Saturday, April 27, 2024 D-shift celebrated Assistant Chief Jay Jester's last shift with the Salisbury Fire Department. AC Jester served the citizens of Salisbury and Wicomico County for over 23 years. Crews enjoyed a "last supper" with the Chief and presented him with a hand carved American flag with the SFD logo.



New Driver Operators:

Over the past 6 months, several members of D-shift have completed their training to be able to drive various pieces of equipment for the department. These individuals are FF/EMT Cameron Chance (Engine), FF/EMT Megan Baker (Aerial) and FF/EMT Kristen Higgins and FF/EMT Jason Press (Rescue and Engine-Tanker).

Community Service Events:

Members of D-shift at Station 16 recently hosted the Wicomico County Board of Education's birth to 5 students. The children got a tour of the fire house and equipment, and as a treat they got to hold a fire hose and spray water! We're pretty sure they had a good time and maybe some of the kids will grow up to be firefighters because of this experience.



Notable Incidents

1/25/2024 C-Shift

Members of C-Shift along with the Special Operations units and multiple outlying agencies, responded to Tidal Health PRMC for decontamination of patients from a chemical explosion and release that occurred in Pocomoke, Maryland. The patients that were transported and EMS providers from that scene were decontaminated prior to entering the facility at PRMC. All injuries were non-life threatening.



2/10/2024 C- Shift

Members of C-Shift, along with multiple outside agencies, were alerted to a building fire on Parsons Road. Crews arrived with fire through the roof of the single-story laundromat. Multiple handlines were put into service to extinguish the fire and searches were negative. No injuries were reported and the Fire Marshal's Office investigated the cause of the blaze.



2/24/2024 A-Shift

Paramedic B1 responded to a call for a burn patient. Upon assessing the patient Clinicians from B1 performed a medical consultation for the patient. It was decided that the best care for the patient would be at the Burn Center in Baltimore. Our crews transported the patient to the MSP hangar at the Salisbury Airport for the flight to Baltimore by Trooper 4.

3/18/2024 C-Shift

In the early morning hours, members of C-Shift, as well as outlying departments responded to Island Club apartments for a reported apartment fire. The first arriving engine had fire showing through the roof of the two-story, eight-unit apartment building. A second alarm was struck, bringing multiple outlying agencies to assist with the blaze. The building was destroyed and the fire is being investigated by the Fire Marshal's Office. No injuries were reported



Notable Incidents

4/13/2024 B-Shift

SFD members responded to a residential structure fire with fire showing through the eaves and gable end windows. An aggressive interior attack was initiated, and a search was conducted with 1 canine being removed. SFD was assisted by other agencies from Wicomico, Somerset and Sussex County.



4/28/2024 A-Shift

Multiple crews were alerted for an MVC with injuries on the Salisbury Bypass. Crews would arrive to find a tractor trailer that had ran off the side of the bypass and into a wooded area. The driver had minor injuries and was treated by EMS.



5/11/2024 B-Shift

The crew of Engine 1 rescued 9 baby ducklings from a storm drain near the mall. Job well done with all ducklings safely extricated.



5/31/2024 B-Shift

Engine 16 crews were dispatched to the area of 13 and Lloyd Street for a car fire. Crews arrived on scene to find a passenger vehicle on fire. Engine 16 crews deployed an attack line and made quick extinguishment of the fire.

Notable Incidents

5/26/2024 A-Shift

Rescue 1 and the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department were alerted for an airplane crash with 2 victims trapped 1 being unconscious. Crews worked together to extricate both victims. One patient was flown out to a trauma center while the second victim was transported to Tidal Health.



6/1/2024 A-Shift

The Hebron Fire Department, as well as Salisbury, Westside and Mardela were alerted for a house on fire in the 29000-block of Pratt Road, just outside of the Salisbury district. Engine Tanker 1-1 arrived on scene first, with fire through the roof of the single-story dwelling. Crews advanced a hose line to extinguish the fire. Hebron and other crews arrived and assisted with extinguishment and overhaul. One SFD firefighter was injured, after suffering a fall and transported by EMS to Tidal Health. The Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause.



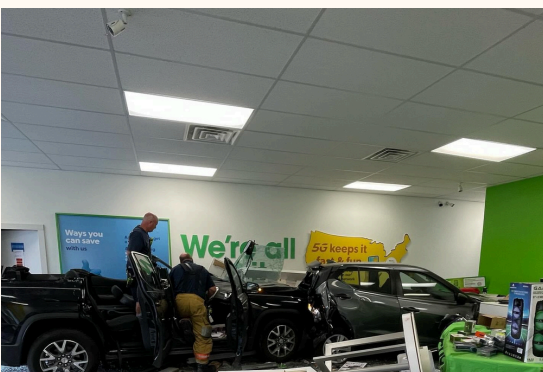
6/2/2024 D-Shift

Salisbury Fire Department personnel are constantly training in order to better serve the public. Recently, members of D-Shift participated in highly technical rope rescue training. Rope rescue can be used in many emergencies with limited or confined spaces by firefighters and emergency rescue crews. Places where rope rescue is helpful includes buildings, cliffs, ships, caves, and other areas where an individual must be raised or lowered by rope rescue teams. Rope rescue teams are highly trained and skilled in this specific type of rescue and must complete specific rope rescue training courses before attempting a rescue mission.



6/4/2024 B-Shift

SFD units were dispatched to Route 13 south and Dogwood Drive for a reported vehicle into the building. Crews worked quickly to get all 4 patients extricated from the vehicle, stabilize the building, and transport the patients to Tidal Health.



Years of Service Recognition



Probationary:

Emily Kitching
TJ Moore
Madison Savage
Lauren Stanley
Madison Savage
Julio Trejo



5 Year:

Wyatt Bishop
Colby Bunting
Cameron Chance
Corray Heath
Kristin Higgins
Andrew Stanley
Tyler Stierhoff
Sarah Trice



10 Year:

Lt. Kyle Gray
Angie Jenkins
Sgt. Ben Koons
Matt McCormick



15 Year:

Assistant Chief David Cox
Capt. DJ Messick
Corey Mitchell
Sgt. Brandon Records



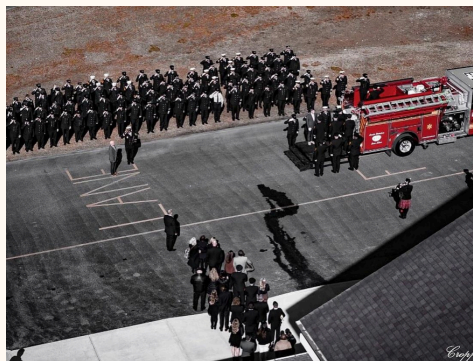
20 Year:

Lt. Zach Bridges
Assistant Chief Eric Cramer
Capt. David Haines
Sgt. Kara Harrington
Donnie Phippin
Assistant Chief Chris Truitt
Assistant Chief Chris Twilley
Lt. Ron Wismer

Passing of Captain Bryan Lewis



The department lost a dear friend and colleague with the passing of Lieutenant Bryan Lewis. Bryan had faithfully served the department for 18 years and was assigned to Truck 2 on D-Shift. Bryan lost his battle with cancer on February 14, 2024 and was posthumously promoted to the rank of Captain. Bryan is remembered for his multiple roles within SFD, including Firefighter/Paramedic, Maintenance & Supply Officer, and most recently Lieutenant on Truck 2. Affectionately known for his great personality, Bryan was a loving friend to many, always ready with a smile on his face and a laugh. He was a great leader and mentor to many. His service began as a 911 dispatcher for Wicomico County Emergency Services and as a volunteer with Westside Volunteer Fire Department. He will be sorely missed by all members of the department.



Correspondence from the Community

Dad was a lifelong Salisbury resident and a steward and ambassador of not only health care but the well-being of the community at large. As his grandfather, Dr. George W. Todd, advocated for improving the community in 1897, founding P&H, it's so interesting to see parallels with the longevity of Salisbury Fire founded in 1872.

Please extend my deepest appreciation to all Fire/EMS members for their endearing empathy.

— With fondest regards
Dr. William Todd

4/29/24
Dear Salisbury Fire/EMS Personnel—

My apologies for the lateness of this note, but do wish to extend my sincere gratitude for the sympathy and condolences provided with the recent death of my father, Dr. Merwin Todd.

I was absolutely touched, and in years, with the heartwarming presence of many department members at his visitation. It was so very, very kind of so many of you to provide your love and support... Thank you.

Emergency Response Teams, paramedics,
My name is Jennifer Wehberg, I wanted to thank you for helping me. I had a new onset seizure on 2/19/2024 requiring a call to 911. I wanted to thank the crew who responded, but more importantly to the entire emergency response teams for your dedication and response you give to the community.
Thank you for being there,

Jennifer Wehberg



thank
you

Dear Salisbury Fire Company,

I want to sincerely thank you for this generous offer and providing me with this scholarship. This is a huge step in helping me pursue my dreams of becoming a Physicians Assistant and helping citizens throughout the community daily just as my father does. I appreciate this beyond words can describe.

Sincerely,
Riley O'Barsky



5/7/2024

Dear FireFighters

Thank you for everything you do. You put out fires in our houses and businesses. You teach us about fire safety. You teach us about the importance of smoke detectors. You help people who have medical emergencies. I want to thank you for helping keep our city safe.

Yours truly,

Skye Mumford